

**Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board**

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY BOARD
Marina Del Rey Hotel
13534 Bali Way
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292
(310) 301-1000
July 15, 2004
CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Committee Members Present

Bruce Gerratt, PhD, Chairperson

Alison Grimes, AuD

Marcia Raggio, PhD

Committee Members Absent

Vivian Shannon, MA

Board Members Present

James Till, PhD

Rebecca Binge, MA

Sherry Washington, MA

Staff Present

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer

Lori Pinson, Staff Analyst

George Ritter, Staff Counsel

Albert Balingit, Staff Counsel

Guests Present

Dennis Van Vliet, AU

Angela Mandas, California Speech-Language
Hearing Association

Marcia Mathason, Miller & Standel & Associates

2:30 p.m. – Continuing Professional Development Committee Meeting(Chair Gerratt, Grimes, Raggio, & Shannon)***I. Call to Order**

Mr. Gerratt called the meeting to order at 2:55 p.m.

II. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

**III. Continuing Professional Development Course Review
Consider Appeal Regarding the Denial for Continuing Professional
Development (CPD) Course Credit:**

A. Sensory Integration and Behavior Strategies Can Work Together

Chairperson Gerratt introduced the course, "Sensory Integration and Behavior Strategies Can Work Together," as agenda item for review.

Ms. Grimes indicated that she reviewed the course materials carefully and found that, while the course offers valuable information to a variety of behavioral and/or counseling professionals, the content lacked any specific reference or direct relationship to the practice of speech-language pathology.

Ms. Bingea pointed out that the letter written by the licensee who submitted the appeal provides specific examples of how the course information may be applied by a speech-language pathologist during therapy sessions; however, the actual course materials do not reflect the information or learning objectives as stated in the licensee's letter.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that most of the supporting documents submitted by the course provider were that of course surveys completed by speech-language pathologists who attended the course and found the material extremely beneficial to their professional practice.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that it is often difficult to defend the Board's position on course relevance, especially when other states are more lenient in the types of learning experiences that can be applied to the license renewal requirements. She further stated that the change in approval process, wherein the Board will have the authority to approve individual courses using subject matter experts, should make the CPD requirements less ambiguous and more consistent.

The Committee stated that most of the confusion from the licensing population stems from interpreting the term "relevance," and concluded that amending the CPD regulations regarding the definition of an approved course offering is necessary.

Ms. Washington inquired about amending the regulations to allow a limited number of CPD hours in "related areas" that constitute subject areas that address multi-disciplinary topics.

Ms. Del Mugnaio responded, and indicated that any suggested regulations amendments should be considered by the Committee and presented to the Board for a formal vote.

Chairperson Gerratt asked the Committee members if any of them believed this course was denied in error and whether it should be further assessed to determine its merit.

The Committee members indicated that the course was not specific to the practice of speech-language pathology. They also indicated that the subject of sensory integration has come before the Committee at previous meetings, and that the Committee denied courses offering information on sensory integration at those times also. It was noted that if a course on sensory integration was developed to apply specific strategies to speech and language therapy sessions, the course may meet the directly relevant criteria.

M/S/C: Grimes/Raggio

The Committee voted to uphold the denial of the course entitled "Sensory Integration and Behavior Strategies Can Work Together."

B. Language and Literacy: The Reading, Writing, and Spelling Connection.

Chairperson Gerratt introduced the second course, "Language and Literacy: The Reading, Writing, and Spelling Connection," and reviewed the course objectives.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that additional information regarding the course offering was provided to Board staff *after* the decision to deny the course. Denial of the course was based on review of the course outline only. More comprehensive course materials, which were not available at the time of course denial, are contained in the meeting packets. Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that, had she reviewed the extensive course materials, she would not have denied the course.

Chairperson Gerratt stated that the meeting packets contain position statements and technical reports from the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) regarding the role of speech-language pathologists in developing the reading and writing skills of both younger children and adolescents. He stated that the ASHA documents advocate strongly that speech-language pathologists have a significant role in language literacy, both written and spoken.

Mr. Till further supported relevance of this course, and stated that the IDEA language addresses the integration of school curriculum and speech and language therapy; i.e., the speech-language pathologist may obtain a child's spelling words and/or reading words to incorporate the words in both language and articulation therapy.

Ms. Mandas inquired about the process employed by the Board to review a course offering.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that courses are generally submitted to the Board during the Board audit process. She stated that the courses are reviewed by staff, and if there are any concerns regarding the course offering, the course is submitted to her for review.

She stated that if she has further questions regarding the merits of the course, she sends the course to a professional member of the Board for review. If the course is ultimately denied, the licensee has an opportunity to submit the course to the Continuing Professional Development Committee for an appeal. The decision of the Committee is a final decision.

Ms. Raggio inquired whether the Board must approve courses offered by Board-approved providers.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the Board does not automatically endorse any individual course offering without first reviewing the course content. She stated that there are actually two criteria that must be considered by the licensee prior to taking a course for CPD license renewal requirements: first, the course must be offered by a Board-approved provider or a provider specifically named in the law and, second, the course must meet the course criteria defined in the regulations.

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained to the Board that she has found, through the process of conducting informal citation review conferences for individuals who were issued CPD citations, that most of the individuals cited had never read or were even aware of the CPD regulations.

One of the guests present at the Board meeting inquired whether all of the licensees who participated in courses that have been denied by the Board would be subject to a citation and fine.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that only a small percentage of licensees are audited, and that licensees who participated in courses that they believed to be relevant to the CPD license renewal requirements are provided an opportunity to cure the noted deficiency in order to pass the CPD audit.

M/S/C: Grimes/Raggio

The Committee voted to overturn the denial of the course and approve the "Language and Literacy: The Reading, Writing, and Spelling Connection" course as applicable to the continuing professional development requirements for license renewal.

There being no additional discussion, Chairperson Gerratt adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer